

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6397

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINR, AU, SP
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHY: LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO

REF VIENNA 8607

1. LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO, SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, BORN NOV 18, 1920, BARCELONA. STUDIES UNIVERSITIES OF MADRID AND BARCELONA, DOCTORATE IN LAW 1943. PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW 1945-52; HIGH COUNCIL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH 1955-56; CHIEF AIDE, PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVT 1956-62; COMMISSIONER, ECONOMIC PLANNING 1962-65; MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1965-73; MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS 1973.

2. IN PHYSICAL ASPECT LOPEZ RODO TALL, SLENDER AND GRAY-HAIRED. ABLE AND DYNAMIC. HAS KEEN, ALERT AND QUICK INTELLECT. HAS LITTLE THEORETICAL ECONOMIC BACKGROUND BUT REPUTED FOR HIS ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY. RESERVED, BUT GENEREALLY PLEASANT IN MANNER. WITH A TENDENCY TOWARD SHYNESS, LOPEZ RODO, A BACHELOR, SHUNS MANY SOCIAL EVENTS AND MAY APPEAR DULL OR ARROGANT WHEN DOES ATTEND, ESPECIALLY IN PRESENCE OF WOMEN. SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH AND HAS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE BUT PREFERS TO USE AN INTERPRETER. AS A "NUMERARY" MEMBER OF THE SEMI-SECTET CATHOLIC LAY ORGANIZATION OPUS DEI, LOPEZ RODO
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HAS TAKEN THE RELIGIOUS VOWS OF OBEDIENCE, POVERTY AND

CHASTITY AND, ACCORDINGLY, HAS LIVED AUSTERELY.

3. THE LEADER OF THE "TECHNOCRAT" TEAM WHICH DOMINATED THE CABINET DURING THE LATE 60S AND EARLY 70S, WAS PROTEGE OF PRIME MINISTER CARRERO BLANCO WHO WAS STRONG SYMPATHIZER WITH OPUS DEI. THROUGH SUPPORT OF CARRERO BLANCO, LOPEZ RODO WAS ABLE TO INFLUENCE SELECTION OF CABINET MEMBERS, THUS CREATING CABINET WITH AT LEAST HALF OF MINISTERS EITHER MEMBERS OF OR SYMPATHETIC TOWARD OPUS DEI. LOPEZ RODO UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS BRILLIANT POLITICAL TACTICIAN. UPON DEATH OF CARRERO BLANCO IN DEC 1973, LOPEZ RODO WAS REMOVED AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFLUENCE OF OPUS DEI REDUCED CONSIDERABLY.

4. WELL DISPOSED TOWARD UNITED STATES AND WEST IN GENERAL. PARTISAN OF SPANISH INTEGRATION INTO WESTERN EUROPE AND PROPONENT OF EVENTUAL SPANISH FULL PARTNERSHIP IN COMMON MARKET. SEES SMOOTHING OUT OF RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND SEEKING OF "GREATER FRIENDSHIP" WITH UNITED STATES DURING PERIOD OF INTEGRATION INTO WESTERN EUROPE. FORMER U.S. LEADER GRANTEE (1959) AND MET WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON NOV 1970 TO DISCUSS U.S.-SPANISH BILATERAL COOPERATION IN NONMILITARY FIELDS. TRAVELLED TO U.S. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1973. SPOKE BEFORE UN AND MET WITH U.S. OFFICIALS INCLUDING SECSTATE. RIVERO

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